

REMARKS

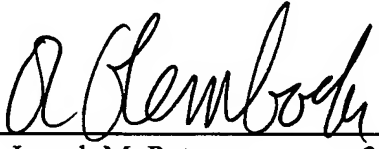
Applicants request the Examiner consider the above claims prior to an examination on the merits of the present application.

Applicants note that claim 22 was originally labeled as one of two claims numbered "25". This amendment rectifies the numbering.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned to further prosecution.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:


Joseph M. Potenza
Registration No. 28,175

B # 38800

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 824-3000

Dated: January 5, 2004